葛井美鳥

PROFILE

Born February 20th Pisces
O Blood type

Born in Osaka currently in Fukuoka

Recently I haven't been able to go horseback riding so whenever it's sunny I look out the window from my office and giggle

I'll go this spring But since it's been so long I'll have to take some days off because of the muscle pain

cover design ◆◆◆chi design

Hanaoto◆Comics Hanaoto◆Comics Hanaoto◆Comics

花音 COMICS

ビフォアデイライト・ラブ

Before Daylight Love

Mitori Fujii

葛井美鳥

ビフォアデイライト・ラブ
葛井美鳥

◆芳文社◆

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定価：本体571円＋税

Daiki was bought by the Sasaki Group's Wakagashira Tatsumi who then left Daiki in charge of his bar Moderate in order to discharge the remainder of a large debt from his parents Tatsumi always lives in the moment and Daiki wants to protect the one place Tatsumi can find peace and is determined to be Tatsumi's shield if need be but—

A love story about two people who need each other more than anyone else even though neither man realizes their feelings for the other

The popular problem piece "The Animal Ear Business" short story is also included ♥

HANAOTO COMICS

◆葛井美鳥
アフターモーニング・ラブ
ビフォアデイライト・ラブ
◆栗井結己
その肩に唇の雪
はつ恋ものがたり
それは唇の愛しやない
指先で唇を誓れ
◆なせかめ了
生徒会長の密かな欲望
◆かふとまる楓了
社長のたくらみ
ネクタイはしたままで
唇に甘い罠
唇蜜SMクラブで
唇は貸約できません
◆神崎貴や
Honeys ハニーズ
ラブボディGuard
悪いカラダ 愛する体
エロティックM
恋滴れ男子
◆桜覚めい
全部俺のモノ！
化学唇の王子
ワルイコトシタイ
唇じゃないの
悪いコでもイイ？
唇いしゃないけど
ワルイ男でもイイ
恋じゃないけど

CitaCita SERIES

◆野生ゆえ
NATURAL DOGGY'S DIARY
なちゅらる どぎぃず だいありぃ Petit
◆高1山ひょう
下弦の月夜の物置①～②
◆新也英樹
手強い恋なた
恋の花咲く夏も来る
◆上もがやひびくまみらい 原
夏の雪

Love
After the Ear Epidemic
Daytime
Postcard

[CHAPTER 1]

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HIM AT NIGHT

WHAT?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
Would you call that cold? Or maybe grown up
IS IT REALLY SOMETHING TO BE SURPRISED BY? THERE ARE OWNERS OUT THERE WHO DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THEIR STORES
No way
What DO Yakuza do during the day?
Hm
Super cold?
MORE IMPORTANTLY MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER HOW TO CUT UP THE ICE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
IT'S JUST SO SURPRISING
LAP
LAP
LAP

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE OWNER WENT TO WORK FROM YOUR HOUSE EVERY MORNING
YOU'RE LOVERS, AREN'T YOU? YOU AND THE OWNER, TATSUMI-SAN
Wuoa!
THUD
WHAT?! YOU GOT A LOOSE SCREW OR SOME-THING?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A NEWLYWED DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN PUSH IT ONTO OTHER PEOPLE, YA MORON!
The cat just went to waste mail!
BUT
IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THEN WHY WOULD HE LET YOU RUN SUCH A WONDERFUL SHOP LIKE THIS...
AH...

THEN HE'S YOUR PATRON

A grown-up relationship!

You brat

WANT ME TO MAKE YOU INTO SOME DICE INSTEAD OF THE ICE?!

THIS IS TATSUMI'S HIDE-OUT.

HE CAN'T JUST GO INTO ANY OLD BAR WHEN YOU TAKE HIS POSITION INTO ACCOUNT.

THE BOSS IS A FEUDAL LORD WHO'S PROTECTED IN HIS CASTLE. THE WAKAGASHIRA* IS THE ONE WHO LEADS THE GROUP'S TROOPS

THAT MEANS IT'S THE MOST COVETED POSITION BUT A LOT OF THEM DIE YOUNG.

ESPECIALLY IN TATSUMI'S CASE. IN HIS GROUP THE FIFTH IN CHARGE WAS DISMISSED BECAUSE OF INTERNAL CONFLICTS.

AND TATSUMI WAS ABLE TO CLIMB THE RANKS EVEN THOUGH HE WAS AN OUTSIDER

CLICK

*Wakagashira: Boss of a fighting group. Usually a yakuza or a Yakuza group.

I'VE EVEN HEARD THAT THEY'RE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE SINCE THEY'RE ALSO IN A POWER STRUGGLE WITH ANOTHER GROUP AT THE MOMENT.
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER IN THE GROUP
IT'S PROBABLY REALLY COMPLICATED RIGHT NOW
IT MIGHT EVEN BE GETTING TO A POINT WHERE IT CAN'T KEEP HIM HERE ANYMORE
I SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT GETTING HIM TO LEAVE SOON
SO.
YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS HOW THIS SHOP IS RUN
HUH?

THAT MEANS WHEN I TELL YOU TO RUN, YOU RUN OUT THE BACK DOOR WITHOUT ASKING WHY,
AND GO HIDE IN A CROWD.
GOT IT?
THAT WAS WHAT HE SAID.
BUT IS IT REALLY THAT DANGEROUS?

Clearly, a need exists for leaving offerings of documents like this at the ear.
HMMM...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, EITHER.
SUIT IN KABUKI", THERE'RE A LOT OF DIFFERENT GROUPS SUPPORTING THE SHOPS, BUT THEY'RE ALL ABLE TO COEXIST WITH EACH OTHER.
THE SECOND DISTRICT** IS A SUIT UNIQUE AND THE SHOPS ARE ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, SO I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH YAKUZA ACTIVITY THERE.

*A district in Shinjuku, Tokyo that ... wards a two other sub-districts.
**A district in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Official Name: Kabuki-cho. Famous for many bars and ...s.

BUT LATELY THERE'S BEEN SOME PRESSURE FROM KANSAI THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE ADVANCES IN THE AREA
SO THERE'S BEEN SOME FRICTION BUILDING
OH!
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY DAIKI WOULD WANT TO OPEN A SHOP IN THE SECOND DISTRICT AND TALK LIKE A TRANS-VESTITE!
REALIZATION
NOW I GET IT! THAT'S WHY DAIKI OPENED THAT SHOP THERE
It's safer because it's in their territory
HUH?
Just think about it.
BUT THE MASTER'S GAY ISN'T HE?

THAT CAN'T BE!
HE WENT OUT WITH WOMEN DURING COLLEGE
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE!
HE EVEN WENT TO MIXERS. HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE KIND TO-
WHAAAT?!
EVEN I DID THAT KIND OF STUFF
PEOPLE DO THOSE THINGS TO HIDE IT, YA KNOW
Especially with friends at school
I'M GOOD AT NOTICING STUFF LIKE THAT
I'M SURE OF IT
I've never heard anything about it!
snuffle
THERE'S NO WAY
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!

I'll be killed
PLEASE DON'T THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT SCARY
RIN!
MAYBE HE'S THE TYPE THAT JUST DOESN'T NOTICE IT
OR MAYBE HE'S RIP
YOU'RE SAY TOO YA KNOW
YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT OTHERS LIKE THAT!
HOLD UP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN SCARY?
OF COURSE IT IS WHEN YOU DENY IT LIKE THAT
OH, THAT'S RIGHT

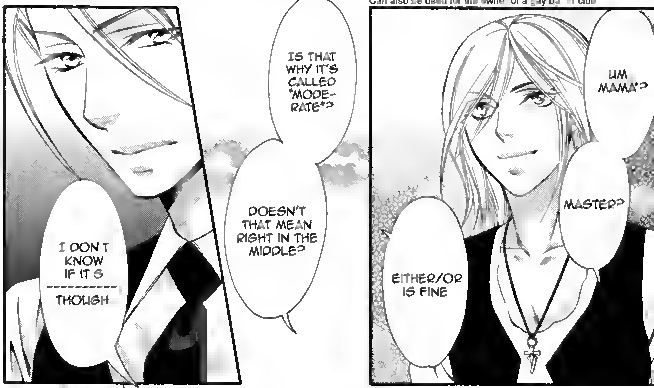
IT HURTS A BIT, YA KNOW
I'M SORRY
YOU'RE RIGHT
THIS HAPPINESS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, RIN
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE

AH
UM
on the bed

MATSUNO
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU

OPEN
WELCOME
WEL-COME!
HELLO
CAN I STILL COME IN?
OF COURSE. COME ON IN.

*mama for the women that runs a pub, bar, hostess bar. Can also be used for the owner of a gay bar or club


UM MAMA?
MASTER?
EITHER/OR IS FINE
IS THAT WHY IT'S CALLED "MODERATE"?
DOESN'T THAT MEAN RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THOUGH

*cocktail made with whiskey, sweet vermouth, and bitters

HEY,
HE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD, DOESN'T HE?
YOU THINK I COULD CHANGE SEATS?
I'M SORRY BUT WE'RE NOT THAT KIND OF SHOP
OH SO YOU HAVE RULES ON THAT KIND OF STUFF HUH?
OR
IS HE SOMEONE SPECIAL?

THANKS FOR THE DRINK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
SLAM
GO OUT TO THE ROAD AND WAIT FOR MATSUNO
HUH? BUT IT'S NOT RAINING OR ANY-THING
JUST DO IT
JUST GO THROUGH THE BACK AND PICK A WELL-LIT STREET
DON'T RUN YOU'LL LOOK SUS-PICIOUS
!

SLAM
IF YOU CAN'T GET A HOLD OF YOUR LOOK-OUTS, WE'RE OUT OF TIME
YOU GO AS WELL

GRAB
YOU MORON!
IT LL BE STRANGE IF THERE ISN'T ANYONE IN THE SHOP
JUST LEAVE AL-READY
YOU LEAVE TOO
CREAK
SLAM
SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP THEM AT BAY
I ALREADY KNOW THAT
WASH

DAIKI
DON'T SEND ANYONE OVER
IF THEY START FIRING GUNS IN HERE,
IT'LL BE EVEN MORE DANGER OUS
SQUEAK
SLAM
HELP WON'T COME.
THIS IS...

SLAM
STOMP STOMP
HEY,
THERE WAS A GUY HERE JUST NOW
WHERE DID HE GO?!
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT, HE JUST LEFT
NO ONE SAW HIM LEAVE!
WELCOME ♡
HOW THIS SHOP IS
OH, THEN HE MIGHT BE IN ONE OF THE OTHER SHOPS IN THIS BUILDING.
THERE ARE JUST SO MANY PEOPLE BAR HOPPING NOWADAYS
YOU LIAR! WE ALREADY KNOW THAT TATSUMI ONLY COMES TO THIS SHOP!

STOMP
STOMP
YASU! GO CHECK THE BATHROOM, TOO
HEY! GO CHECK THE BACK DOOR!
THIS IS TATSUMI'S SHOP, AIN'T IT?!
WELL?!
THIS IS BAD THEY CAME WITH INFORMATION
I'M THE MAMA HERE YOU KNOW, SO–
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!
OH, PLEASE. THIS IS MY SHOP
ガシャーン

HEY!
CRASH
THERE'S EXPENSIVE ALCOHOL HERE, SO-
GRAB
!
WHERE'S TATSUMI?!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT THAT?!
I JUST TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW!

OPEN
GOOD EVENI-
YOU-
WHAAAT?!

WHA WHOA
SOME-BODY
POLICE!
IT'S A ROBBERY! SOME-BODY!
SOME-BODY COME OVER HERE!
STOMP
STOMP
DAMN!
SLAM
MOVE IT!

DAIKI!

I DISLOCATED MY RIGHT SHOULDER
THEY SAID IT'LL TAKE FOUR WEEKS TO HEAL
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO LAY A FINGER ON THE SHAKER FOR A WHILE
MA MASTER
I'M SORRY RIN
BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CLOSE THE SHOP FOR A WHILE
YOU'RE GOING TO START SCHOOL SOON, AREN'T YOU?
THIS'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE TO FOCUS ON THAT
WHY
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?! YOU WERE AGAINST YAKUZA!
HE'S THE OWNER! HOW COULD HE HAVE JUST LEFT YOU LIKE THAT?!

YOU IDIOT
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF SHOP IT IS
WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT'S MY JOB TO HELP HIM GET AWAY SAFELY
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD RUN A SHOP FOR A WAKAGASHIRA WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT I WAS GETTING MYSELF INTO
WELL I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD'VE HURT MY SHOULDER THOUGH
BUT...
THERE'S A MORAL CODE THAT THEY WON'T LAY HANDS ON A MEMBER'S FAMILY OR CIVILIANS. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THEY DON'T FOLLOW IT
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SOME REALLY BAD PEOPLE TATSUMI MUST BE IN SOME TROUBLE TOO
WE'LL COME TO VISIT AGAIN
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF
RIN?

OPEN
YOU LIKE THE OWNER, TATSUMI-SAN, DON'T YOU?
MASTER!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS AGAIN?
YOU REALLY MUST HAVE A COUPLE OF SCREWS LOOSE IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS

E
BUT
IF THAT'S NOT IT, THEN WHY WOULD YOU USE YOUR OWN BODY TO PROTECT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
step
step

I...
...WAS BOUGHT BY HIM
!
SO I OPENED THE SHOP UP FOR HIM...
AND DECIDED THAT I WOULD BE HIS SHIELD WHEN THE TIME CAME
B-BUT...

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE BETWEEN TATSUMI AND I
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM OUTSIDE OF THE SHOP
IF... MY SHOULDER DOESN'T HEAL, I GUESS I'LL JUST BE DISMISSED FROM MY POSITION.
THAT'S ALL THIS EVER WAS.
THEN I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

[第2話]
CHAPTER 2

shove
shove
THERE WE GO
HMP DAMN IT
OUCH
Had the nurse tie his hair.
AH DAMN IT
IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET THINGS DONE WHEN MY RIGHT ARM IS INJURED

KNOCK KNOCK
OPEN
EXCUSE US
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE SAHARA DAIKI-SAN?
WE'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP
WHO ARE YOU?
WE'VE BEEN HIRED BY TATSUMI-SAN TO WATCH OVER YOU
I'M HAGA FROM S&D SECURITY
I'M KUSABA

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YAKUZA
DO YOU THINK I'D GO WITH YOU BASED ON YOUR WORD ALONE?
WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE SUSPICIOUS.
I'D ALSO LIKE TO STATE THAT WE'RE A WELL RESPECTED CIVILIAN PROTECTION AGENCY AND HAVE NO CONNECTION TO TATSUMI-SAN'S LINE OF WORK
HERE ARE OUR DOCUMENTS PROVING THAT WE'RE EMPLOYEES OF S&D SECURITY,
TATSUMI-SAN REQUESTED OUR SERVICES IN A COMPLETELY INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY
AND THESE ARE COPIES OF TATSUMI-SAN'S CONTRACT WITH US

HE REALLY IS AN IDIOT
FINE
I JUST HAVE TO GO WITH YOU, RIGHT?
HE SHOULD JUST LEAVE ME ALONE

HEY DRIVER
THIS IS THE WRONG STREET
I'M SORRY
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOUR HOME HAS BEEN DISCOVERED
AND IT HAPPENS TO BE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT LOCATION TO GUARD, SO...
CAN'T BE HELPED SINCE IT'S A RUN-DOWN APARTMENT
I CAN'T EVEN GET A HOLD OF TATSUMI
I REALLY DON'T CARE ANYMORE
TA-DA

TA-DA
BUT...
...WHY IS IT A LUXURY HOTEL...
...SUITE?
WE'LL BE WORKING IN THE LIVING ROOM.
SO WE'LL HAVE YOU USE THIS ROOM SAHARA-SAN.
WE'LL SUPPLY ANY NECESSITIES YOU MAY NEED. SO WE ASK THAT YOU TRY TO REFRAIN FROM GOING OUTSIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS JUST BEING POLITE AND GENEROUS
OR TRAPPING A BIRD IN A CAGE
HAA!
"I WAS BOUGHT BY HIM."
"THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT"
fall
THAT'S RIGHT
I JUST PROTECT THE STORE
AND BECOME A SHIELD WHEN NECESSARY
ISN'T THAT WHY HE BOUGHT ME?
THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY ON ME?

DOZE OFF
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE TO THROW
IF THEY ARE NO LONGER USEFUL!
DAIKI!
HEY MATSUNO.
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL?
WELL, I CAN'T AFFORD IT SINCE MY MOM PASSED AWAY
BUT FOR YOU A SCHOLAR-SHIP WOULD..

I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IT WHEN MY MOTHER DIED
MY FATHER DISAPPEARED AND LEFT US WITH A DEBT
SOME OTHER STUFF CAME UP
BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD ON MY MOTHER
PRO-MISE ME!
MAKE SURE TO CON-TACT ME WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN
DAIKI!
IT WASN'T AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT
I WAS STARTING TO FEEL THAT I'D REACHED MY LIMIT WITH HIM.
BESIDES,
IF THINGS SETTLE DOWN
I SHOULDN'T JUST CHILL OUT IN COLLEGE.
chatter chatter
Hahahaha!

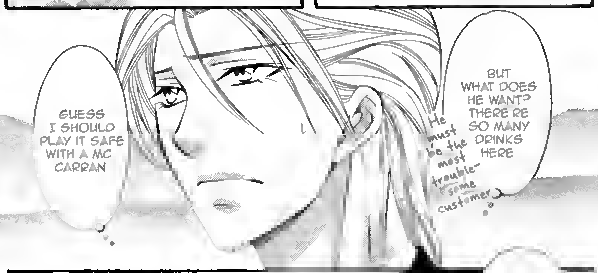
DAIKI
Desert Rose's club located in Kabuki district
YES?
DAIKI HERE IS NEW
HE'S A WORKING COLLEGE STUDENT
HE WAS STUDYING TO BE A LAWYER BUT QUIT AND HE IS STILL A CLEAN BOY
stare
stare
THIS HERE IS THE BOSS OF TAKAHARA INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, TAKAHARA-SAN
HMM
HE'S ONE OF OUR GOOD CUSTOMERS, SO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE HIM SPOIL YOU
WELL HE ISN'T BAD
BUT I LIKE ONES WHO LOOK A LITTLE BIT MORE HONEST
Giggle
OH WHAT A WASTE
THE MAMA AT DESERT ROSE LOANED THE MONEY, SO MY FATHER HAD A 4 MILLION YEN* DEBT TO THE SHOP
Geez? How stupid
Colour $51 200 USD

OR MAYBE EVEN SOME OLD PERVERT
EVENTUALLY THE MAMA WILL PROBABLY HAVE ME SOLD TO SOME RICH HAG
SAYURI KASE-SAN IS HERE
I'M COMING
4 MILLION THE NO.1 HERE COULD MAKE THAT IN ONE MONTH, EASY
EVEN A WOMAN WORKING IN AN OFFICE GETS PAID THAT MUCH IN A YEAR
BUT, I CAN'T AFFORD IT
FROM THE FACT THAT THIS IS ALL I'M WORTH
I CAN'T RUN AWAY..

WELCOME.
whisper
SILENCE
whisper
Oh,
What pressure.
Who's that?
isn't the Sasaki Group the hacker behind this place?
It's Sasaki's new Waka-gashira.
OH,
WELCOME, TATSUMI-SAN!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK SO SOON!

THE GIRLS ARE ALWAYS TOO NOISY SO HE DOESN'T LIKE THEM NEAR HIM YOU JUST HAVE TO BE QUIET AND SERVE HIM DRINKS
DAIKI COULD YOU HELP?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S UPSET
HIS RIGHT?
AND ONE MORE THING,
DON'T EVER WALK UP TO HIM OR PUT YOUR HAND OUT TO HIM ON HIS RIGHT SIDE
IT SEEMS LIKE HE CAN BARELY SEE THROUGH HIS RIGHT EYE NOW
THERE'S A GUNSHOT WOUND ON HIS TEMPLE?

BACK THEN, TATSUMI WAS EXACTLY LIKE A WOUNDED WILD ANIMAL
A DRINK
YES SIR


He must be the most troublesome customer
BUT WHAT DOES HE WANT? THERE'RE SO MANY DRINKS HERE
GUESS I SHOULD PLAY IT SAFE WITH A MC CARRAN

IT'S HOT OUTSIDE SO HE MUST BE THIRSTY BUT TOO MUCH WATER WILL MAKE IT DULL
A HALF ROCK THEN
HERE YOU GO.

YES, SIR
THE SAME ONE
BUT MAYBE 30 YEARS?
THE SAME MCCARRAN
CLANK
A WOUNDED ANIMAL

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN BUT I WATCHED A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT IT ON TELEVISION
IT WAS A ABOUT AN ANIMAL THAT HAD LEFT ITS PARENTS AND WAS SURVIVING ON ITS OWN
BUT IT... GOT HURT WHILE IT WAS HUNTING
HIS FRONT PAW HAD BEEN PIERCED BY HIS PREY'S TUSK HE COULDN'T GET IT OUT
HE COULDN'T HUNT BECAUSE IT WAS A PAINFUL HINDRANCE SO, HE BECAME WEAKER AND WEAKER.
BUT THE TV CREW WOULDN'T HELP HIM
THEY JUST FILMED IT TALKING ABOUT HOW IT WAS THE HARSH REALITY OF THE WILD

I ACTUALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANIMAL AFTER THAT.
SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE EVENTUALLY SAVED HIM.
HE MIGHT HAVE GOT THE TUSK OUT HIMSELF.
OR MAYBE THEY JUST KEPT FILMING UNTIL HE DIED.
AT THE TIME I DIDN'T REALLY CARE AND DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO IT.
DAMN
BUT I SOMETIMES THINK BACK AND WONDER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE END.
FOR SOME REASON, TATSUMI MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THAT ANIMAL.

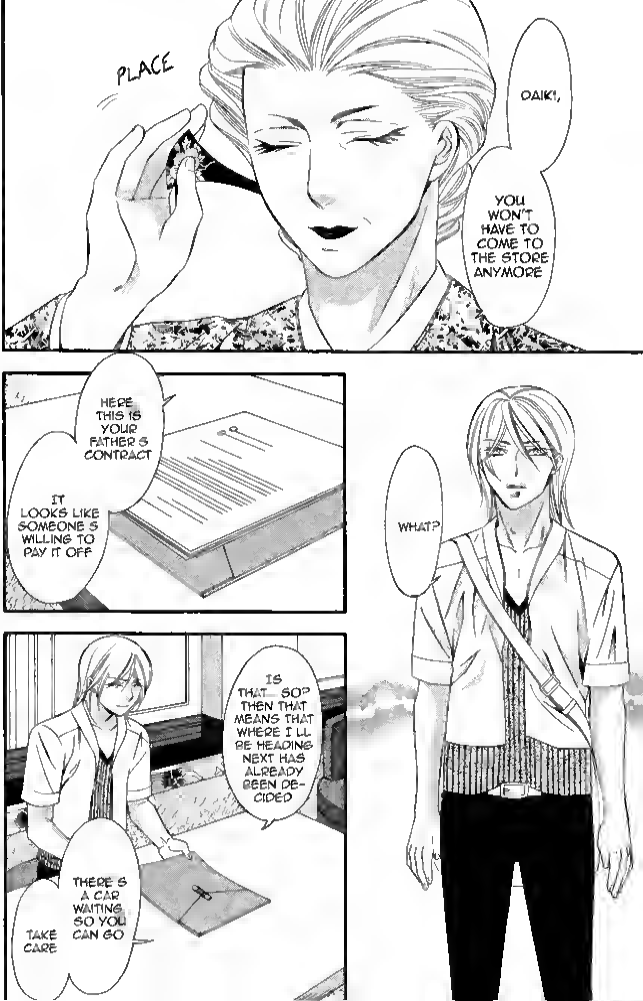
HEY
HI
YOU'VE BEEN PUT ON DUTY FOR TATSUMI A LOT HAVEN'T YOU?
AREN'T YOU SCARED AT ALL?
NOT REALLY
ALL HE DOES IS DRINK HE NEVER SAYS ANY-THING
He doesn't complain, either
BUT I HEAR SASAKI'S IN A BIT OF TROUBLE
THERE'S SOME INTERNAL CONFLICT AND IT LOOKS LIKE SOME PEOPLE WANT HIM DEAD.
IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM
WELL,
THEY'RE ALL RUMORS, THOUGH
But still, watch out
SO THAT'S WHY
HE'S ALWAYS UPSET

TAP
OH, SORRY
twitch
IT'S RARE OF YOU TO SPACE OUT
WELL,
IT SEEMS LIKE I'LL BE LEAVING HERE SOON AND...
THAT'S A BIT TROUBLE-SOME

WELL IF I OPEN UP MY OWN SHOP, PLEASE COME
IT'LL PROBABLY BE IN THE DISTANT FUTURE THOUGH
WHAT?
YOU WANT TO OPEN A SHOP?
WELL YEAH
I've been working like this for a while, so
WHOA!
chatter
SHOCK

clatter
clatter
KYAA!
SHUT UP AND MOVE!
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF STORE THIS IS?
"THERE'S SOME INTERNAL CONFLICT AND..
"...IT LOOKS LIKE SOME PEOPLE WANT HIM DEAD."
CLOSE
IF YOU GO TO YOUR LEFT YOU'LL SEE AN EMERGENCY STAIRCASE
OVER THERE
TAFF
PAST THE LOCKERS THERE'S A DOOR BEHIND THE CURTAINS
HEY!
THIS WAY!

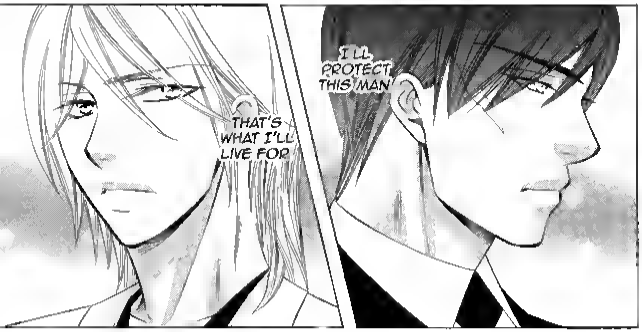
I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON
IT'D BE STUPID IF YOU WERE TO DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
NOW GO! YOU CAN FIGHT BACK ONCE YOU'RE READY
SWOOSH
OPEN
WHOA!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! THIS IS THE CHANGING ROOM!
STRIP
DAMN IT HE'S NOT HERE, EITHER
HE GOT AWAY!
CLATTER CLATTER


PLACE
OAIK!,
YOU WON'T HAVE TO COME TO THE STORE ANYMORE
HERE THIS IS YOUR FATHER'S CONTRACT
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S WILLING TO PAY IT OFF
WHAT?
IS THAT SO? THEN THAT MEANS THAT WHERE I'LL BE HEADING NEXT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED
THERE'S A CAR WAITING, SO YOU CAN GO
TAKE CARE

KNOCK KNOCK
EX-CUSE ME.
MAMA TOLD ME TO
HUH?!
WH... WHY IS IT YOU?!
GET IN.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO OPEN A SHOP, DIDN'T YOU?
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T GO TO THIS STORE FOR A WHILE

THIS IS THE BUILDING
IT IS JUST BEEN SITTING HERE VACANT SO NOW IT CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE
I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE THE INTERIOR AND THE RANGE OF ALCOHOL
OO WHATEVER YOU WANT
AS LONG AS IT'S OPEN WHENEVER I COME ANYTHING'S FINE
SO YOU WANT THIS TO BE YOUR HIDEOUT?
I WAS BOUGHT BY HIM,
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE THAT'S INTO MEN

SO, THAT MEANS HE DOESN'T WANT MY BODY, BUT MY LIFE
TO BE A SHIELD, IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN
OKAY, I'LL DO IT.
YOU'LL NEED A HIDDEN DOOR, RIGHT?



I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT, MY REASON TO LIVE

WAKE UP
WHERE AM I?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT THIS IS THE HOTEL
OUCH.
Did the pain-killers wear off?
TATSUMI'S
TATSUMI'S ALWAYS TRYING TO PROTECT ME
HE PROBABLY FEELS OBLIGED TO,
OR MAYBE HE FEELS SORRY FOR ME.

OUR POSITIONS HAVE BECOME REVERSED
DAMN IT!
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE SAVED!
SLOSH
OPEN
LOOKS LIKE IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
I'M GLAD YOU STILL HAVE YOUR ARMS AND LEGS
SO WHAT?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE MAKING DRINKS FOR THE TIME BEING
I WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN THE SHOP
CAN'T YOU JUST LET ME GO AL-READY?
I'VE ALREADY MADE ENOUGH TO PAY BACK THE DEBT
THERE'S NO POINT KEEPING SOMEONE WHO HAS NO USE ANYMORE

WHA, WHAT?
BUT THAT'S ALL I HAD ON MY MIND
I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS BUYING YOU,
NOR AS USING YOU AS A SHIELD OR HAVING YOU GIVE ME YOUR LIFE.
PROTECT HIM.
TO ALWAYS...
UNTIL THEN, I'LL CRUSH EVERY OPPOSING POWER AND CLEAN OUT THE CITY
ONCE YOUR WOUNDS HEAL GO BACK TO THE STORE
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU GO

!
WAIT!
YOU'RE BEING TARGETED, AREN'T YOU?!
WHY WOULD YOU CHASE AFTER THEM?
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
SASAKI'S WAKAGASHIRA.
THE LEADER OF A PACK OF WOLVES THAT FIGHTS AT THE FRONT LINES.
HE ISN'T A WOUNDED ANIMAL ANYMORE.
HE DOESN'T NEED SOMEONE TO PROTECT HIM ANYMORE.

TAT-SUMI...
WAIT, TATSUMI!
WHAT ABOUT THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MY EXIST-ENCE?
THEN WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHAT WILL I BE TO TATSUMI THEN?!
SHARP PAIN
THE THOUGHT THAT HE WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE IS EVEN WORSE
DAMN IT
HURTS LIKE HELL!
THAN THE PAIN AND DANGER I FACED WHEN I HURT MY SHOULDER

[第3話]
CHAPTER 3

FINALLY!
WHOA! I CAN RAISE MY ARM NOW!
HAVING LIMITED USE OF MY ARM MADE IT DIFFICULT TO EVEN GO TO THE BATHROOM.
HEY, STOP THAT!

YOU CAN'T JUST MOVE YOUR ARM LIKE THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN
YOU'RE LUCKY THERE WASN'T ANY DAMAGE TO THE BONE
YOUR ARM'S A TOOL OF YOUR TRADE, ISN'T IT?
IN THAT CASE, THIS IS VERY IMPOR-TANT
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU WEAR THIS BRACE FOR THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS
YOU'RE ALSO GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO PHYSICAL THERAPY
I can still move, but it looks like a bra...
THREE TO FOUR MON-THS?
AND OF COURSE YOU CAN'T USE A SHAKER
WHAT?!
Absolutely off limits!
DISLO-CATIONS CAN HAPPEN MORE EASILY AFTER THE FIRST ONE SO YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL

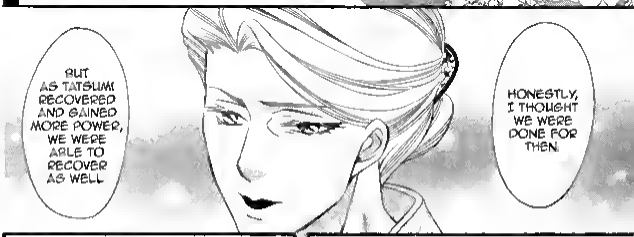
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
IT'S GONNA TAKE THAT LONG?!
Yamisato said it'd only take two weeks to heal!
DEPRESSED
WELL, GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER SINCE I CAN'T OPEN THE SHOP BACK UP FOR A WHILE ANYWAY
AT LEAST I CAN MOVE COMFORTABLY NOW
ROLL OVER
SO, GUARD-SAN,

WHY DON'T YOU GET ME SOME CLOTHES THAT ARE EASY TO GET INTO AND DON'T STAND OUT TOO MUCH?
I CAN GO OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE BIT CAN'T I?
YOU STILL CAN'T GO HOME THOUGH
I KNOW THAT!
I JUST WANT TO SAY HI TO AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE
OH!
AND THOSE BLACK SUITS ARE WAY TOO CONSPICUOUS, SO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE CASUAL.

KABLIK!?
I THINK THAT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA.
WE'LL JUST PARK THE CAR REAL CLOSE TO THE SHOP WE'LL BE IN AND OUT IN NO TIME
I told you I won't mess around!
I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO STAND OUT BESIDES, I HAVE YOU GUYS
WE SHOULD TELL TATSUMI-SAN JUST IN CASE
UNDER STOOD
OPEN

I'M GLAD YOU'RE LOOKING WELL!
OH! WELL WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT'S DAIKI!
OH, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
YOU'RE ALSO AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER
WE'RE NOT OPEN YET SO WHY DON'T YOU COME IN
SO... HOW'S IT GOING?
HOW'S THE STORE AND THE CITY?
WE'RE GETTING BY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
ES-- PECIALLY SINCE TATSUMI'S BEEN HELP-- ING BEHIND THE SCENES.
I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AT ONE POINT

YOU KNOW WHEN TATSUMI WAS ATTACKED
AROUND THE TIME THE WAKAGASHIRA CHANGED?
AT ONE POINT?
DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN?


HONESTLY, I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE FOR THEN.
BUT AS TATSUMI RECOVERED AND GAINED MORE POWER, WE WERE ABLE TO RECOVER AS WELL

WAS IT REALLY THAT BAD?
I THOUGHT THE SASAKI GROUP WAS REALLY BIG?
THAT'S WHY IT WAS WORSE THE PREVIOUS WAKAGASHIRA AND ALL THE HIGHER UPS WERE DISMISSED
...BECAUSE OF INTERNAL CONFLICT BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS AS A RESULT TATSUMI WAS ABLE TO JUMP RANKS EVEN THOUGH IT WAS UNHEARD OF FOR SOMEONE RANKED SO LOW

I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE HE WAS GREEN ESCORTING THE BOSS AROUND
WHEN HIS FATHER WHO WAS YAKUZA WAS KILLED THE BOSS TOOK HIM IN
THE ONLY REASON HE'S EVEN LIVING THAT KIND OF LIFE IS BECAUSE HE FEELS HE OWES IT TO THE BOSS. HE NEVER REALLY HAD ANY AMBITIONS
BUT EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T WISH FOR IT HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THE MIDDLE OF IT
ON TOP OF THAT THE INTERNAL DISPUTES ARE STILL ONGOING AND HIS LIFE IS BEING TARGETED.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT HE'S ACTED UPON IT SOMEWHAT CARELESSLY.
BUT I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...
...THAT TATSUMI...
I MEAN.
AT THAT TIME, TATSUMI LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE A WAKAGASHIRA WHO WOULD TAKE ALL THE BURDENS OF THE SASAKI GROUP UPON HIS SHOULDERS.
"WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!"

HE MUST THINK YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT
WHAT?!
WHAT MADE HIM BECOME LIKE THAT?
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING HE WANTS TO PROTECT
PRO-TECT
ME?!
IMPOR-TANT?!
WHY?!
THERE'S NO WAY!!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT WHEN HE TRIED TO TAKE YOU IN, HE HAD THE MOST MENACING LOOK ON HIS FACE I'VE EVER SEEN
So I thought

SHRIEK
Decline and I'll kill you!
You gotta be kidding
IT'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THEM BEING INTIMIDATING
YEAH... BUT WHEN YAKUZA LOWER THEIR HEADS
TATSUMI DID WHAT?!
HE BOWED HIS HEAD
...THAT WHEN HE WENT TO TALK TO THE MAN WHO ALREADY HAD HIS EYE ON YOU
I EVEN HEARD...
BUT IN THE END THE OTHER PARTY GAVE UP
LUCKILY THERE'S BEEN NO TROUBLE AND HE'S STILL A REGULAR CUSTOMER
I THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS FOR THAT TO HAPPEN
HE LOWERED HIS HEAD TO SOME NORMAL PERSON?
THAT CAN'T BE
WHAT?
I'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS

"I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU GO."
"ONCE YOUR WOUNDS HEAL, GO BACK TO THE STORE."
WHY WOULD HE NEED TO KEEP AN AMATEUR BARTENDER?
IT'S TRUE THAT I WORKED FOR TATSUMI AT THE TIME.
BUT THERE HAS TO BE TONS OF PEOPLE WHO COULD WORK FOR THE WAKAGASHIRA
WHY WOULD I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO...
AND LATELY,
REALIZE
IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE FROM THE WEST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS
FORTUNATELY, TATSUMI'S ON THE FRONT LINES FOR THE SASAKI GROUP, SO IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN AFFECTED YET

IT MUST BE THEM!
BUT I'M STILL WORRIED THAT HE'S BEING TARGETED.
DAIKI,
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T COME AROUND HERE ANY-MORE.
TATSUMI WOULD BE HURT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU.
I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HIM, EITHER.
I'll be seeing ya.
I'LL BE FINE.
YOU BE CAREFUL TOO, MAMA.

THE CITY'S FALLING APART
WHAT?
KABUKI HAS ALWAYS BEEN RUN BY A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GROUPS
EVEN IF MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS HAPPENED TO PASS BY EACH OTHER,
THERE WAS AN IMPLICIT AGREEMENT THAT THEY WOULDN'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE
BUT THERE ARE FIGHTS ALL OVER THE PLACE NOW
THE VULGARITY HAS BECOME VISIBLE

CAN TATSUMI REALLY PUT THINGS BACK TOGETHER?
HEY!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
YOU WITH THE LONG HAIR, MIND SHOWING US YOUR FACE?

RUN TO THE CAR WHEN I TELL YOU TO
LOCK THE DOOR AND LIE ON THE FLOOR
It's bullet proof
JINGLE
HEY!
I'M TELLING YOU TO SHOW YOUR-
whoosh
GRAB

HIT
KUSAKA! THESE AREN'T AMATEURS! AIM FOR THE SOLAR PLEXUS!
SMACK
!
RUN!
SHIT!

BEING HIS SHIELD?
I'M JUST A USELESS A SUDDEN!
SHIT
I'M JUST...
Wheeze
ME PROTECTING TATSUMI,

TATSUMI?!
WHOA.
SMACK
WHY...
WHY ARE YOU HERE

THAT SHOULD BE MY LINE
THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR YOU TO BE WANDERING AROUND
SAHARA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
GET IN THE CAR, QUICKLY!
APPEAR
WAIT YOU LITTLE...
WAKABA-SHIRA?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, CHASING AN HONEST MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC?
NO, WE WERE JUST-
BANG
YOU IDIOTS!
WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LOOKING?!

SHRIEK
WE'RE SORRY
WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE WAS A THIN YOUNG MAN WITH LONG HAIR WHO DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YAKUZA SO WE THOUGHT-
WHOA
WELL, IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE WRONG, THEN SCRAM!
DON'T JUST LEAVE OUR TURF UNGUARDED!
WE'RE SORRY!!
I'M GLAD I HAD YOU TWO KEEP GUARD

DON'T JUST WANDER AROUND
!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE A TRIP SOME-WHERE?
I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING CLEANED UP BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK
WELL
ISN'T THAT A GREAT IDEA
IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY AND NEVER COME BACK, IS IT?!
!

OUCH!
YOU IDIOT!
LET GO!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU
ONCE YOUR WOUNDS HEAL, GO BACK TO THE STORE
NO WAY!
YOU CAN EASILY GET A REPLACEMENT, CAN'T YOU?
IF I WASN'T THERE, YOU COULD-

I DON'T NEED A REPLACE-MENT!
IT HAS TO BE THAT STORE!
BANG
AND YOU!
I DON'T NEED ANOTHER BARTENDER!

WHAT .. DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHY NOW?
IT'S AS IF
glance
GUNSHOT

TATSUMI!
IT'S STILL PRETTY FAR AWAY, SO THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.
GO!
PLEASE GET IN
CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER
I THOUGHT I WAS PROTECTING HIM.
WAIT AT THE HOTEL FOR NOW, GOT IT?
BUT IT WAS THE ONE BEING PROTECTED

I WON'T LOSE THE ONE PLACE I CAN GO BACK TO.
TATSUMI!
THIS WHOLE TIME...
...WAKABASHIRA JUST FOR THIS PURPOSE.
HE'S BECOME A DEAL.
HE'S NO LONGER A WOUNDED ANIMAL.

I'M SO STUPID
EVEN NOW, IT'S STILL THE SAME
I'M ALWAYS JUST WAITING FOR TATSUMI
TATSUMI!

I STUDIED ALCOHOL FOR HIM.
AT DESERT ROSE,
I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT PROTECTING THE SHOP.
AT MODERATE
BUT
AS LONG AS HE SAYS HE NEEDS ME
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE
OF
WHAT NOW? WILL IT ALL JUST GO TO WASTE?

AS LONG AS HE NEEDS A PLACE TO COME BACK TO,
AND AS LONG AS I NEED TO BE AT THAT PLACE...
JUST SO HE CAN GO OUT AND FIGHT AGAIN THEN.
I'LL KEEP WAITING.
NO MATTER HOW MANY DAYS,
OR HOW MANY MONTHS,
AS LONG AS I HAVE A ROLE TO FULFILL,
SO YOU'D BETTER COME BACK.

I'LL KEEP ON WAITING.
SO PLEASE
JUST BE SAFE.
WAKE UP
CLICK
TATSUMI?!

[第4話]
CHAPTER 4

THAT BASTARD!
CLICK
TATSUMI?!

WOBBLE
I'VE ALREADY HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH-
DAIKI..
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT, AND I COULDN'T GET A HOLD OF YOU AT ALL!
YOU ASSHOLE, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!
SLUMP
!
TA...
TATSUMI?!
SLIDE
HEY,
RE YOU HURT?

TATSUMI!
HE'S ALWAYS MAKING PEOPLE WORRY!

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS HE HURT?
WE SHOULD CALL A DOCTOR
I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU,
SAHARA-SAN, BUT
TATSUMI-SAN
SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN SOUND ASLEEP

HE'S THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST GROUP OF MEN UNDER THE SASAKI GROUP BOSS
HMM, SO EMBARRASSING!
AND HE'S GOTTEN SO TIRED THAT HE'S PASSED OUT
WHAT IS HE, A KID? A GRADE SCHOOLER?!
I FEEL SO SILLY FOR PANICKING...
...AFTER YOU SCARED ME SO MUCH.
BUT...

...HE CAME STRAIGHT BACK TO ME.
IT'S STUPID HOW HAPPY THAT MAKES ME.
EVEN SO
THERE'S NO WAY I WANT TO FEEL THAT SAME EMPTINESS...
...EVER AGAIN

SOMETHING TO PROTECT
TO ME, THAT STORE IS
"HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING HE WANTS TO PROTECT"
THEN I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO BE VULNERABLE,
BUT IT'S REALLY NOT LIKE ME TO JUST WAIT AROUND FOR SOMEONE LIKE THIS
NO, IT'S THIS PLACE TO GO BACK TO.

HAA...
LOOKS LIKE I GOT BACK ONE WAY OR AN-OTHER
OH, YOU FINALLY WOKE UP YOU SLEEPY ASSHOLE
TRY NOT TO SCARE PEOPLE SO MUCH!

SO, WHAT HAPPENED AFTER ALL THAT?
SLAP
WE COULDN'T FIND THE GUY WE WERE LOOKING FOR.
IT SEEMS LIKE THE OTHER SIDE.. HAS THEIR OWN POWER STRUGGLE GOING ON
A THIN YOUNG MAN WITH LONG HAIR WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YAKUZA.
THAT.. THE GUY WHO CAME TO THE STORE?
YEAH. BUT WE WERE ABLE TO CRUSH THE BIGGEST HEAD.

Crush?
I WON'T ASK FOR THE DETAILS
PLEASE
SOME HIGHER-UPS CAME IN AND WERE ABLE TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THE BOSS
FROM NOW ON, THEY WON'T TRY TO ENCROACH ON OUR TURF
OR SO I HOPE...
THAT MEANS THEY PROBABLY DON'T KNOW WHEN THE DEAL WILL BE BROKEN
YOUR WORLD IS REALLY ROUGH AIN'T IT
WAS IT THE ONE... WHO PUT HIM OFF STEPPING INTO THAT WORLD?

"I don't need a replace-ment!"
SO,
SO THEN WHY ARE WE JUST RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES?
DAIKI?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY NATURAL FOR THIS TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING
WHAT A COMPLICATED YET SIMPLE STORY.
MAN. THIS IS SO STUPID.

IT'S NOT THE STORE
OR THE ALCOHOL
IS IT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE WHERE I AM?
WHAT ARE YOU STUPID? WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN EASIER
..IF YOU'D JUST TOLD ME TO BECOME YOURS?
HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW HOW TO SEDUCE A GUY?
IF YOU WERE A WOMAN, I WOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU SOME FURS AND JEWELS
LETTING YOU RUN THE STORE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF
EXPLAIN?
You!
There will come up to him so he's never had to seduce anyone :)
HOW WOULD YOU DO IT THEN?
YOU CAN'T CALL THAT SEDUCING A WOMAN AT ALL!

COME ON!
THERE ARE TONS OF THINGS YOU COULD SAY!
HOW ABOUT "I LIKE YOU," "I LOVE YOU," OR "I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU"
I SEE
THEN--
HEY!
HOLD UP YOU ASSHOLE!
YOU CAN'T SAY IT JUST LIKE THAT!
THEN YOU'D JUST BE ALL TALK!
You haven't got an ounce of sincerity!
SAY WHAT YOU FEEL WHAT YOU REALLY FEEL!
DAMN
WHAT A PAIN

PISSED
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST SAY?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT YOU
I CAN'T BREATHE
WHEN I'M DROWNING IN MUCK AND CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I GO TO THE SHOP
THEN I CAN BREATHE EASY AGAIN
What the hell?!
AM I AN AIR FRESHENER?!
pat
I SEE... NOW I GET IT
YOU ASS-HOLE!

I THOUGHT THE STORE WAS IMPORTANT,
BUT THERE'S REALLY NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DESERT ROSE AND MODERATE
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ALCOHOL BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER IF YOU TOUCHED THE SHAKER OR NOT
mad
How long do you think I've been training?!
THAT PISSES ME OFF A KNOW!
SO BASICALLY, I NEED YOU
GET IT?

You can say it just fine
LIKE I SAID
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL LOVE?
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?
HAA.

HOW IS IT?
AH YOU'RE RIGHT
THIS IS IT
WHOA?!

THIS
MUST MEAN
THIS IMPULSE TO SUFFOCATE YOU..
THIS DESIRE THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO DEVOUR YOU.
AH AH!
TATSUMI..
HEY DON'T BITE!
UH.. WAH!

AAH!
WE'RE SO STUPID
WE TRIED TO FOOL OURSELVES WITH OUR WORDS
WANTING TO PROTECT THE PLACE THAT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER AT ALL
ALL WE WANTED WAS
WAIT, STOP TATSUMI!
PULL
YOU DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE DO YOU?
YOU CAN'T TAKE MY BRACE OFF
SO WHAT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE COCK-TAILS

DON'T THINK I MAKE DRINKS JUST FOR YOU!
AS IF!
SMACK
ANNOYED
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE YOUR MISTRESS OR SOMETHING!
THE BAR IS MY CASTLE, AND MY COCKTAILS ARE MY PRIDE
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS I DON'T TAKE IT OFF, RIGHT?
FINE
I told you not to bite!
H.. HEY!
AH

FLINCH
TATSU MI..
TA
NGH
NNGH..

THRUST
UWAH!
TATSUAH!
BLOWER!
Ouch! Hurt! Hurts! You idiot!
slap
slap
I'M NOT A GIRL, SO DON'T BE SO ROUGH!
IF YOU THRUST THAT HARD, I'LL TEAR NGH!

I CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S BEEN WHILE SINCE I'VE SLEPT WITH A GUY.
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT USED TO IT?
AH.
LIKE HELL I AM!
SINCE WHEN?
chuckle
SO
I... I DON'T REMEMBER.
BUT AROUND THE TIME.. I OPENED THE STORE NOH
YOU CAN BE REAL CUTE SOME-TIMES.
It wasn't for you, ya know!
What?!
AND THEN?
OKAY
SLOWLY, GENTLY, RIGHT?

AH, SLOWER
AH NOT SO DEEP
JUST LET IT STRETCH OUT LIKE THAT... NGH
CREAK
NGH!
NGH.. AAH
UGH..
SMEAR
WHA— AH TATSUMI!
LOOKS FINE NOW
WAIT—
AH!

MMPH!
PUSH
SHOVE
!
NGH
NGH

Haa...
AH
Haa...
AHHH..
TAT-
SUMI...
TA...!

EXHAUSTED
HE ENDED UP DOING WHATEVER HE WANTED DAMN IT
It's still dark out
YOU LEAVING AL-READY?
YEAH
IS IT STILL GONNA TAKE A WHILE?
IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE THINGS CALM DOWN COMPL ETELY
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN UP THE SHOP WHEN YOUR SHOULDER HEALS

IF YOU WANT I CAN MOVE YOU TO A DIFFERENT BUILDING
NAH, THAT PLACE SUITS ME
IT'S ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT SO YOU CAN'T TELL IF IT'S A GAY BAR OR NOT
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WANT IT TO BE
SO MODERATE HUH?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH
OR WHO I'M IN LOVE WITH
Yeah yeah
AN AIR FRESHENER, RIGHT?
IF YOU MESS AROUND TOO MUCH, THAT OTHER GUY'S GONNA GET HIMSELF KILLED.

HEY!
THAT LAWYER...
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT WHEN I SHOULD PUT HIM AT THE BOTTOM OF TOKYO HARBOR
MATSUNO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
HE'S RIN'S HE'S JUST
CHUCKLE
Animal instinct?
SERIOUSLY, WHO'S THE ONE ACTING CUTE HERE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT PAST CRUSHES

I THOUGHT ABOUT
TRYING TO STOP HIM AND KEEPING A CLOSER EYE ON HIM, BUT
TATSUMI LEFT BEFORE THE SUN CAME UP, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT HE WOULD.
BUT THAT'S FINE
ACTUALLY IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST
I GUESS HE'S A NIGHT-OWL.

...IS SLOWLY STARTING TO GET BACK ITS LIVELINESS
THEN A FEW MONTHS LATER
MODERATE QUIETLY RE-OPENED FOR BUSINESS AND...

I'M RUBY, WITH BEING A MAMA WHO USES A GIRLS TONE AS WELL AS BEING THE MASTER
Oh, well isn't that great?
THE STORE IS BACK TO NORMAL
THE OWNER SITS IN THE CORNER, QUIETLY DRINKING HIS ALCOHOL LIKE ALWAYS

BUT SOMETIMES...

WE'RE LEAVING FIRST
YEAH THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK RYE
clatter
RUSH
IT MAY ONLY BE A SMALL CHANGE, BUT...
THAT OWNER WILL SIT AND STAY TILL CLOSING.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.

IT'S SO COLD!
AND,
LIKE ALWAYS,
WE HAVE OUR NIGHTLY RENDEZVOUS
He should just go to the room ahead of me
BUT IT'S FINE LIKE THIS
AS LONG AS I CAN MAKE THE LONG, SUFFOCATING HOURS BEFORE NIGHTFALL
JUST A LITTLE BIT EASIER, THEN...
END

HERE
YOU
GO

What the hell?!
AM I AN AWFRESH-ENED?
I SEE NOW I BET I
YOU ASS-HOLE!

TA...
KIZAKI-SENPAI?!
GRAB
THIS IS JUST...
WHAT'S THAT?!
STOMP
STOMP
DON'T TELL ME THAT
NO
NO, THIS IS...

After The Animal Ear Epidemic

IT'S FINALLY STARTED TO DIE DOWN..
IT SPREAD THROUGH THE COMPANY OVER THREE MONTHS
AND THEN THEY JUMPED ONTO MY BOYFRIEND AFTER WE HAD SEX
ONE DAY, A PAIR OF EARS POPPED ONTO MY HEAD..

...AND NOW NO ONE COMES IN WITH EARS ON THEIR HEAD.
SINCE THEN,
THE EARS HAVE GONE AWAY,
BUT TAKAMI HASN'T.
EVEN NOW, HE STAYS BY MY SIDE

KIZAKI-SENPAI
GOOD MORNING
YOU'RE UP EARLY IT'S ONLY 6 A.M.

SENPAI..
PUSH
NGH!
IT S FINE
WE STILL HAVE TIME I'LL JUST MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD
UH..
AH!
slide
AH.. TAKA.
NO...

BLUSH
WHAT?
PLEASE?
YOU TOO, SENPAI
AH,
AH
AAH

SENPA~I
KIZAKI-SENPAI
PLEASE DON'T BE MAD
I'M NOT MAD!
BUT YOU SEEM...
BUT WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?!

I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT VE OVERDONE IT THIS MORNING
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT
I WON T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE MORNING AGAIN SO PLEASE?
SORRY, I LL TALK TO YOU LATER
HEY TAKAMI
YES?
AH...
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
LIKE I SAID, I...

I'M NOT USED TO THINGS LIKE THIS
IT'S JUST THAT
WHY DID IT HAVE TO END UP LIKE THAT?
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT AT WORK AFTER DOING THAT
BUT I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS IT

IF I HAD EARS

IF I HAD THOSE EARS, MAYBE I'D BE ABLE TO PROPERLY SHOW HIM HOW I FEEL
I'm so glad I've got a spare key ♥
SENPA-I ♡
I'M LATE BECAUSE OF THE RECEPTION BUT I'M HERE ♡
DO YOU MIND IF I SPEND THE

UM..
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AFTER YOUR ANIMAL EARS OR ANYTHING.
I KNOW THAT!
I... I KNOW THAT,
BUT YOU SAID IT WAS HARD TO TELL WHAT I WAS THINKING
I THOUGHT THAT IF I HAD EARS, I'D BE ABLE TO TELL YOU BUT IT JUST DIDN'T WORK
FA.
FAKE EARS?
DROP
WHAT?
IT DIDN'T?
HUH?

IS IT THAT YOU LOVE ME VERY MUCH?
OR IS IT
—THAT AFTER WE HAD SEX THIS MORNING, YOU WERE SO EMBARRASSED THAT YOU COULDN'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE?
WHA.
WHA
ACT-UALLY,
I'M EVEN MORE SURE OF IT NOW
IT'S ALL RIGHT I KNOW

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'M NOT SURE
TIMES WHEN I'M REALLY WORRIED,
BUT SENPAI, YOU REALLY DO LOVE ME, RIGHT?
OF..
OF COURSE!
IF I DIDN'T, HOW COULD I
I'M SO RELIEVED

BUT
TAP
SINCE YOU ALREADY GOT THESE,
I LIKE HOW YOU HAVE A COLD EX-PRESSION AT WORK.
I LIKE HOW YOU'RE SHY AND CAN'T EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL.
I LOVE YOU TOO SENPAI
IT'S OKAY IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE THE EARS,
I JUST LIKE HOW CUTE MY SENPAI IS WITH EARS, SO..
But they're so cute. ♡
YOU...
PUNCH
PUNCH
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS OKAY WITHOUT THE EARS!
!
LETS HAVE ANIMAL EAR SEX ♡

PL
OP
HUH, WHAT'S THIS?!
DID YOU BUY ONE FOR ME, TOO?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE THE EARS,
I JUST LIKE HOW CUTE YOU ARE WITH EARS!

Ll...
This might be the first time you actually said it?!
IT'S FINE!
I'LL WEAR EARS THE WHOLE TIME!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAN WEAR THEM FOREVER!
Atarimae
wag
wag
IDIOT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW THIS CUTE OUTFIT TO ANYONE BUT ME!
A BEGINNING IS A BEGINNING AND I GUESS THESE TWO ARE A LITTLE PERVERTED AS WELL,
ROGER!
BUT IN THE END THEY ARE A HAPPY COUPLE! ♡
END

HEY TATSUMI,
CLANG
SORRY I HAD TO CALL YOU ALL THE WAY BACK HERE
IT SEEMS OUR TERRITORY HAS CALMED DOWN QUITE A BIT SINCE THEN,
AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT

TEATIME LOVER

note: Name for the boss of Yakuza
I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO GO WITH A WOMAN WE CHOOSE,
I JUST FIGURED YOU MIGHT HAVE A COUPLE OF GIRLS YOU'RE FRIENDLY WITH
I'M SORRY, OYAJI, BUT
DON'T WORRY THOUGH. IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SETTLING DOWN IS ALL
BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY CONNECTIONS WITH THIS BUSINESS
I DO HAVE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE
WELL
IF SHE'S NOT FIT TO BE AN ANE * THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WHAT SOMEONE HONEST?
* older sister also name for wife of yakuza boss or other high ranked members

It fits too well...
Ane?!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME. WHO THE HELL'S AN ANE?!
I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!
What the hell's with these clothes?
WELL,
THERE ARE FEW OBSTACLES, SO...
YOU'RE SO WEIRD
YOU KEEP GRINNING WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME
WHAT'S WITH YOU?

I'M NOT GRINNING
pinch
NO-O YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING
EVERYONE ELSE MAY THINK IT'S THE SAME OLD YOU, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING PAST THESE EYES
THE BRACE? I CAN'T FOR A WHILE YET!
bleh!
CAN'T YOU TAKE THIS OFF YET?
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
grab
WHOA!

Well, so sorry that I don't have any sex appeal!
slap
YOU REALLY HAVE NO SEX APPEAL
YOU CAN USE THE SHAKER AT THE SHOP RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO WEAR THE BRACE WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK TO MAKE UP FOR IT!
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT?
ANNOYED
PUSH
WHOA?!

AH..
YOU!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO BITE!
AH
WAH...
AH... AH AH...
swish
swish
The real truth is...
YUP! GOOD AS NEW
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE COMPLETELY HEALED!
...IN AGONY
Now that I think about it,
I've never seen Daiki's nipples.
What happened?!
The Wakagashira's really
SHRIEK
END

GRAB
THIS IS JUST

Hello, I m Mitori Fuju

My second comic with Hanaoto, "Before Daylight Love," features the adult couple from "After Morning Love".

In the previous "After...', love came after the sex, or something like that, but this time it's love that comes before daybreak. These two always had a relationship that centered around the night so they can probably go on dates together now without anyone else knowing.

Daiki would be in danger if anyone found out, and Tatsumi has to always consider his status. But still, Tatsumi's closer underlings probably know about it and call Daiki "Ane" behind his back, lol.

As I was drawing them, not only was I thinking about how to get them together, but that it would be weird if they didn't have something exciting go on around them! Even so, they looked like a married couple, so it ended up being even more difficult! Or at least that's how I felt as I was drawing it. It really felt like a misunderstood love.

Just like a one-sided love, it was obvious once you knew to look for it, but it's a bit late for that. Rin already pointed it out earlier, since he has a natural instinct for those kinds of things. I think he can tell what someone's current relationship status is or if they're gay or straight, but I wonder if he's figured out that Daiki's first love was Matsuno?

By the time Rin came, Matsuno was just Daiki's good friend, so he either doesn't know or he's just not saying anything. But if that's the case, that makes Matsuno a straight devil who's popular with guys, lol!

Wouldn't it be dangerous for him to walk around the area where Daiki's shop is located?

By the way, not only is Tatsumi the Sasaki group Wakagashira, but a few characters from "The Fourth Guard" that I drew for a different company came up, but I only did it after I got approval from the editing staff on both sides.

If you don't mind, won't you please check out the daily life of those two at the Security Company? It would make me really happy.

Also, wasn't the Annual Ear Businessmen short story in here, too? It's a short short that I was somehow able to keep going until now, and if I only have to draw the same number of pages again, perhaps I can continue it in the future?

Oh! That reminds me that I never wrote what happened to the Boss after that!

How could I have just left it like that?

Simply put, I'm fully satisfied now that I've drawn the story of these two. But what about seeing Daiki's nipples?! I also forgot about the dark abs boy! Well then, I might end up doing more stories for each of them. Or more like I hope I'll be able to draw them.

When that time comes, I hope you'll read it.

Thank you so much for reading this far.

I also thank my editor for this project, Editor I-m and the assistants who helped me.

I hope we can meet again in the next story!

January, 2012 Mitori Fujii

WHAT ABOUT MY BOYFRIEND?!
SCRATCH THAT, WHEN IS MY TURN?!
AND WHAT ABOUT MY NAME?!

ご感想などのお便りは、〒112-8580（株）芳文社
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ケモ耳エピデミック	アフター	2009年花音DX14
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あとがき		描き下ろし

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